

Minutes  
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD  
October 24, 1978

The Parks and Recreation Board met for its regular meeting at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday October 24, 1978, at the Austin Parks and Recreation Department. Present were Mr. Garrison, Chairman; Mr. Bray, Secretary; and members Mrs. Arnold, Mr. Britto, Mr. Coffee, Miss Dominguez, Mr. Nalle, Mrs. Isely, Mr. Ramos, Mr. Shaw and Ms. Stockard. Members absent were Mr. Hall and Mr. Rose. Members Emeritus absent were Mr. Coates and Mrs. Crenshaw. Staff members present were Leonard Ehrler, Roy Guerrero, Dorothy Nan McLean, John Hughes, Dan Wilson, Randy Russell, and Louise Nivison. Visitor was Mrs. Leonard Ehrler.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Mr. Garrison, Chairman.

Mr. Garrison welcomed Miss Dominguez and Mr. Ramos to the Board. Both Miss Dominguez and Mr. Ramos expressed their pleasure to be appointed to the Board and looked forward to working with everyone. Mr. Garrison also welcomed Mrs. Ehrler to the meeting.

Mr. Garrison asked for approval of the minutes of September 26 and October 9, 1978. It was moved by Mrs. Isely and seconded by Mrs. Arnold that the minutes be approved as printed. The motion carried unanimously.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Bray stated that he has scheduled a meeting with Mr. Dick Lillie, Director of the City Planning Department to discuss the subdivision ordinance and would try to have a report for the next meeting. Mr. Ehrler asked if Mr. Bray would include Mr. Dan Wilson, Park Planner III, in the meeting. Mr. Bray stated that he certainly would. Mr. Ehrler stated that the City needed to be extremely careful in regard to restrictions. Mr. Bray explained this ordinance would cover parkland to be designated and set aside for park purposes under the initial subdivision process. This would help eliminate higher prices for parkland, if needed, in later years. The Parks and Recreation Board needed to be involved with the Planning Commission in this matter to insure its success. The big concern was to be sure that private property was not being taken.

Mr. Garrison stated that he, Mr. Coffee and Mr. Ehrler attended a meeting on October 9th on the Downtown Revitalization Program. He was most impressed with the proposed program, and the program would probably be most lucrative for receiving federal funds as it was a downtrodden area. Mr. Ehrler stated that the only thing at the present time that was really under way for this downtown revitalization was the Waller Creek Development Plan. This project was the first step in the redevelopment of the downtown area, with \$3,000,000 to be spent in the first two and one-half years. Mr. Garrison stated that Mr. Harris Brush worked on the project for 20 years and the University of Texas architectural students in 1964 designed a concept of Waller Creek development from the University of Texas area to Town Lake. Mr. Coffee stated that Waller Creek was probably one of the most studied areas by Austin landscape architects. The project would be done in phases. Mr. Ehrler stated that he would be meeting with Mr. Lillie, Director of the Planning Department very soon on the Congress Avenue renovation. Congress Avenue was slated to be torn up for a storm drain

which would go down the middle of the street. He felt the street could be improved by placing a median down the middle and plant trees. Mrs. Arnold stated that she would like to remind everyone that Waller Creek was a part of the Bicentennial Horizons Program for creeks and waterways.

#### SCULPTURE FOR ROSEWOOD PARK

Mr. Garrison stated that no one was present for consideration of approval of a sculpture of Mrs. U. V. Christian, proposed to be placed in Rosewood Park. Mr. Ehrler explained that the Arts Commission has approved the scale model of the sculpture. Mr. Garrison asked that the item be placed on the agenda for November.

#### ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Mr. Garrison stated that the status reports were for information.

Mr. Guerrero stated that at a future meeting when the agenda was not too full, he would like for different sections of the Recreation Division to appear before the Board so they could become more acquainted with the different programs. Mr. Ehrler introduced the staff members present. Mr. Guerrero stated that groundbreaking ceremonies were being held for the South Austin Multi-Purpose Center that would be constructed next to Gillis Park. The Parks and Recreation Department would be working very closely with the center and hopefully a year-round program could be provided at Gillis Park. Also, Yule Fest would be held from December 16 - 21 with the tree lighting on Sunday, December 3rd.

Ms. Stockard stated that she noticed a lot of bulldozing in the vicinity of the Gus Fruh Park and she was wondering if some of this could be on park property. Mr. Dan Wilson stated that this was a private subdivision and was not on City property, but his division would check on the matter.

Ms. Stockard asked about the East Town Lake Citizens Association. Mr. Dan Wilson stated that he had been working with the group and they would be ready to appear before the Board again in November.

Mr. Garrison stated an excerpt of portions of the Annexation Study were included in the agenda. Mr. Ehrler asked Mr. Dan Wilson if he would comment on the study. Mr. Wilson stated that he had been in contact with the Planning Department and was told that this was a preliminary draft. It has gone back to the Planning Commission for refinement to be ready by the end of the year. Then it would again be reviewed by the departments and boards. Basically it was a guide in providing management tools for the development of municipal services. Annexation A Plan, reflected the north-south corridor and seemed to be the most desirable. The costs basically reflect total development of parks in annexation areas. Mr. Bray stated that this program grew out of the Goals Program, which in turn grew out of some concern that if one simply responds to growth where it is occurring, you create a momentum for more growth in the area where the growth is occurring and that might not be the ideal approach from an environmental point of view. Thus the Planning Department began looking environmentally at what kinds of problems we run into if we continue developing the hill country to the west, north and south. The Lake Austin Water Shed report led to a recommendation ecologically that your safest



would be the north-south corridor development and if we want to encourage this, the City needs to provide utility services. The plan was very interesting and helpful, particularly in the long-range planning for land acquisition. Mr. Ehrler stated that he had real problems with what stimulates growth and what responds to growth. We can sometimes be called growth stimulators if we go out and purchase parkland and develop that area before growth is made. Yet we have to go out and buy parkland before the property becomes so expensive that we cannot afford it. This is where master planning, even in annexation, really comes into play and we feel the master plan, subdivision ordinance and annexation plans need to be solvent before we can enter into a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These plans need to be settled and there needs to be a built-in public school plan. Mr. Ehrler stated that funds were in the 1978-1983 Capital Improvements Program for a Parks and Recreation Department Master Plan, but was a part of the bond issue now. The master plan was a first priority.

Mr. Ehrler stated that he felt the Board would like to know about the fee schedule with the Austin Independent School District for use of school facilities. Several meetings have been held between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Austin Independent School District and figures have been established that could be lived with on both sides and that fit within the Parks and Recreation Department budget. The joint use agreement would be renegotiated at a later date. The figures would be approved by the Board of Trustees on November 13, 1978. He was very pleased with the discussions and the results. Mr. Britton asked about the Capital City Youth Basketball Association program. Mr. Ehrler stated that this particular problem would be settled by the Capital City Youth Basketball Association paying one-third, the City of Austin paying one-third and the Austin Independent School District paying one-third. Mr. Britton expressed concern that the basketball program would have to pay for using the schools when through taxes they have already paid for the facility, and \$40 per hour would be too much. Mr. Bray stated that the cost would be the incremental cost of opening and using the gym. They were not trying to charge for the bonded indebtedness, land, etc., but for the custodian fees, and it would not be \$40 per hour.

After drawing for terms, Miss Dominguez term will expire June 1, 1979 and Mr. Ramos term will expire June 1, 1980.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.